

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

LOYD E. EAST, JR.

Serial No.: 10/727,453

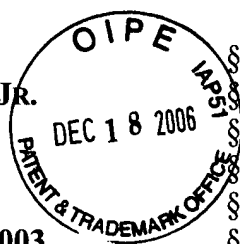
Filed: DECEMBER 4, 2003

Title: "METHOD OF OPTIMIZING
PRODUCTION OF GAS FROM
VERTICAL WELLS IN COAL SEAMS"

Group Art Unit: 3672

Examiner: MATTHEW J. SMITH

Atty. Docket No: 063718.0387



MAIL STOP PETITION
Honorable Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

ATTY. DOCKET No.: 063718.0387
SERIAL No.: 10/727,453
GROUP ART UNIT: 3672
EXAMINER: MATTHEW J. SMITH

PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.10, I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I HAVE INFORMATION AND A REASONABLE BASIS FOR BELIEF THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE WILL BE DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS EXPRESS MAIL, POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE, ON THE DATE INDICATED BELOW, AND IS ADDRESSED TO:

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HONORABLE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
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Sandy Goolsby 12-18-06
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**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111 TO
NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION, MAILED JUNE 2, 2006**

Dear Honorable Commissioner:

In response to the Non-Final Office Action mailed June 2, 2006, Applicants submit this timely response and respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's rejections.

- **Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.
- **Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.

Zupanick, because these cited references fail to teach each and every limitation of Applicants' independent claims 15 and 20. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection as to independent claims 15 and 20 and correspondingly, as to dependent claims 16-18 and 21-23, 27 and 28.

V. No Waiver

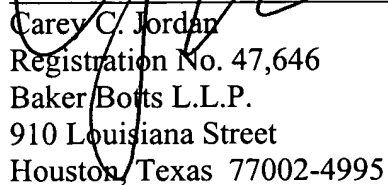
All of Applicants' arguments and amendments are without prejudice or disclaimer. Additionally, Applicants have merely discussed example distinctions from the cited references. Other distinctions may exist, and Applicants reserve the right to discuss these additional distinctions in a later Response or on Appeal, if appropriate. By not responding to additional statements made by the Examiner, Applicants do not acquiesce to the Examiner's additional statements, such as, for example, any statements relating to what would be obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art. The example distinctions discussed by Applicants are sufficient to overcome the anticipation and obviousness rejections.

SUMMARY

In light of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections. Applicants further submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicit timely notice of the same. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments, or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the attorney of record by telephone, facsimile, or electronic mail.

Applicants believe that no additional fees are due in association with the filing of this Response. However, should the Commissioner deem that any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to debit the Deposit Account of Baker Botts L.L.P., No. 02-0383, for any underpayment of fees that may be due in association with this filing.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: December 14, 2006